

## *A prayer to end the use of the death penalty*

*God of Compassion,*

*You let Your rain fall on the just and the unjust.*

*Expand and deepen our hearts*

*So that we may love as You love,*

*Even those among us*

*Who have caused the greatest pain by taking life.*

*For there is in our land a great cry for vengeance*

*As we fill up death rows and kill the killers,*

*In the name of justice, in the name of peace.*

*Jesus our brother,*

*You suffered execution at the hands of the state*

*But you did not let hatred overcome you.*

*Help us to reach out to victims of violence*

*So that your enduring love may help heal.*

*Holy Spirit of God,*

*You strengthen us in the struggle for justice.*

*Help us to work tirelessly*

*For the abolition of state sanctioned death*

*And to renew our society in its very heart*

*So that violence will be no more.*

*Amen*

*—Sister Helen Prejean, CSJ*

## ABOUT

Catholic Mobilizing Network to End the Use of the Death Penalty (CMN) is a sponsored ministry of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph and a lay collaborative of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

CMN proclaims the Church's unconditional pro-life teaching and its application to capital punishment and restorative justice, seeking to prepare Catholics for informed involvement in campaigns both to repeal state death penalty laws and to expand or inaugurate restorative justice programs.

## CONTACT US

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MOBILIZING  
NETWORK**

**TO END THE USE OF  
THE DEATH PENALTY**

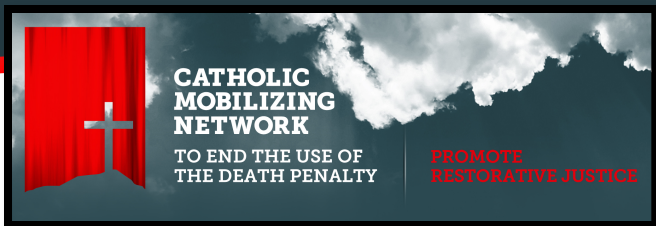
**PROMOTE RESTORATIVE JUSTICE**

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**Catholic Mobilizing Network to End the Use of the Death Penalty (CMN)** carries out the mandate of the United States bishops' "Campaign to End the Use of the Death Penalty" initiated in 2005 (*A Culture of Life and the Penalty of Death*, 2005).



CMN is a nonprofit, national Catholic organization created to inform and facilitate the death penalty related work of Catholic organizations and institutions. Among other services, CMN provides resource materials and education programs (in English and Spanish), and speakers for conferences and special events.

CMN's office in Washington, D.C. coordinates with state Catholic conferences and national groups whose focus is pro-life issues and restorative justice. A second office at Mount St Mary's University in Emmitsburg, concentrates on death penalty coursework and publications, internships, and development.

## VISION

Ending the use of the death penalty is a pro-life issue and reflects the bishops' priority for human life and dignity. Firm in the belief in Catholic teaching on the consistent ethic of life from conception to natural death, CMN seeks to educate Catholics regarding Church teaching on the death penalty. Our vision looks to the day when state sponsored killing in our name is no longer lawful. Inspired by the Gospel teaching of forgiveness, healing and reconciliation, CMN includes restorative justice as an integral part of this vision.

## MISSION

**Catholic Mobilizing Network to End the Use of the Death Penalty (CMN)** supports state bishops' conferences, diocesan offices and Catholic institutions and organizations in their efforts to end the use of the death penalty in the United States and in their restorative-justice initiatives. CMN seeks to prepare Catholics for informed involvement in campaigns to repeal state death-penalty laws and to expand or inaugurate state restorative-justice programs; to proclaim the Church's unconditionally pro-life teaching and its application to capital punishment; and to infuse the public debate with that teaching.

*"I have a dogmatic certainty: God is in every person's life. God is in everyone's life. Even if the life of a person has been a disaster, even if it is destroyed by vices, drugs or anything else—God is in this person's life. You can, you must try to seek God in every human life. Although the life of a person is a land full of thorns and weeds, there is always a space in which the good seed can grow. You have to trust God."*

**Pope Francis**

## WHAT WE DO

### EDUCATE

Educate the Catholic community on the Church's teaching about the death penalty and restorative justice.

### FACILITATE

Facilitate respectful and informed discourse within the Catholic community and the community at large.

### ADVOCATE

Advocate for life and human dignity to local and national community leaders.



*"Our Church's teaching exhorts us to respect human life in all its stages, and in all circumstances. As Catholics, we combine our pro-life and social justice convictions in defense of human life and we proclaim that the penalty of death is never the answer to a difficult pregnancy, a prolonged illness or a violent crime."*

♦ Tom Grenchik, Executive Director, USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

*"Our Catholic faith summons us to recognize the sacredness of all people, including our brothers and sisters who have been convicted of the worst crimes. We believe in a merciful God whose love can transform all of us. The Catholic Mobilizing Network is playing a central role in making this message of mercy known and helping to build a culture of life."*

♦ Jonathan Reyes, Executive Director, USCCB Department of Justice, Peace & Human Development